

Remarks

Claims 1-24, 26-51, and 53-55 are currently pending and are rejected after final. Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below and request that either the finality of the current rejection be withdrawn or that a notice of allowable subject matter be provided. As no claim amendments have been requested after final, there can be no new issues requiring further search or consideration.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on April 26, 2005. During the interview, deficiencies in the Strauss and Mattaway references were discussed in relation to subject matter of the present invention. Namely, it was discussed that any online session data of Strauss is related to the establishment of a voice over IP call between two online users and does not pertain to providing an indication to a calling party that an end of the online session of a user to be called has occurred such that the calling party can place a call to the user once the user is no longer online. It was further discussed that Mattaway similarly is directed to establishing a call to a user while the user is online, such as through a web phone, and that detecting whether the user is online is for the purpose of completing a web phone call while the user is online rather than attempting a call in response to detecting that a user has gone offline.

103 Rejections

Claims 1-24, 26-51, and 53-55 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strauss (US Pat 6,272,126) in view of Mattaway (US Pat 6,131,121). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In rejecting these claims, the Office Action has conceded that “Strauss does not teach contacting users who have recently ended their online sessions.” The Office Action accounts for such a deficiency in Strauss by stating that Mattaway teaches detecting users who are currently online or recently ended their online sessions for the purpose of enabling callers to establish direction communication with the users. The Office Action then concludes that the claims are obvious on the basis of that combination of references. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As a representative example, claim 1 recites receiving online session data that specifies users who have ended recent online sessions, processing the online session data to identify users to call who have recently ended their online sessions, and calling the users who have recently ended their online sessions. Thus, users who have ended their online session are identified and then those who have recently ended their online sessions are called.

These recitations are different than calling the user who is still online, as is disclosed by Strauss and Mattaway. In the rejection, the Office Action accounts for Strauss failing to teach contacting users who have recently ended their online sessions by stating that Mattaway detects users who have recently ended their online session for the purpose of enabling callers to establish direct communications. However, the Office Action fails to explain how Mattaway is disclosing detecting the end of the online session and then calling the user who has ended the online session.

Applicants assert that both Strauss and Mattaway both fail to disclose calling the users who have been identified as having recently ended their online sessions. As much has been conceded regarding Strauss, but as in Strauss, Mattaway is also concerned with establishing the call between the caller and the online user while the user is still online. This is evident from col. 28, lines 41-48 of Mattaway where the camp feature is discussed for the web phone. The web phone of Mattaway is used to establish a call with a user who is still online or who has come back online, and the camp feature of the web phone causes a perpetual re-dial to the user so that once the user has come back online, then the web phone can complete the call to the online user. Applicants assert that the Mattaway disclosure fails to otherwise disclose that the user who has been identified as having ended the online session is then called.

Furthermore, the very citation to Mattaway provided in the Office Action further supports this position. Col. 7, lines 25-53 disclose the concept of a point-to-point communication using Internet communications and the IP address of the callee. Such point-to-point communications using the Internet are only possible if the callee is still online. As noted at lines 43-53, once a user is flagged as being offline, the user is effectively disabled from making and/or receiving Internet point-to-point communications. Accordingly, Mattaway is also not concerned with identifying a user

who has gone offline and the calling that user who has recently ended an online session since Mattaway is concerned with calling the user while the user is online.

Because the combination of Strauss with Mattaway fails to disclose all of the elements of the claims, the claims 1-24, 26-51, and 53-55 are allowable over the current rejections.

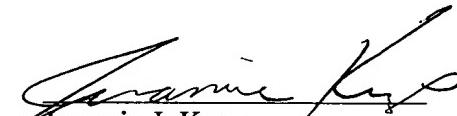
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-24, 26-51, and 53-55 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration after final in view of the remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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